



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1011 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NWRS705-163et

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INFORMATION

Dr. Randy Ridenour
Supervisory Animal Care Specialist
Western Region, Animal Care
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
2150 Centre Avenue, Building B, MS #3W11
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80526

Customer #: 1215
Registration #: 96-F-0001

Dear Dr. Ridenour:

Thank you for your letter of 30 March 2005 requesting clarification for three specific entries: Dall sheep, *Ovis dalli*, (n=36); wolf, *Canis lupus* (n=1) and coyote, *Canis latrans* (n=1). I agree with your conclusion that these data as presented in APHIS form 7023A and the Section entitled "Table E EXPLANATION" are not consistent.

After missing your phone call this morning, I called Dr. V. Wensley Koch, Regional Animal Care Specialist, USDA-Western Region, to discuss the best approach to categorize field methods employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. All animals referenced in the first paragraph should be categorized under Column E. Specific explanations are provided below.

***Ovis dalli* (Dall sheep).** The 36 individuals that were captured via the use of helicopters and net guns experienced distress during pursuit, capture and handling. Pursuit via a helicopter averaged less than one minute and never exceeded 2 minutes. Times between captures (via a net gun) and nasal administration of Xyzaline were less than 2 minutes. Thus, the total time an individual incurred distress from pursuit, capture and handling was less than 4 minutes. Total handling time was less than 20 minutes. Animals were administered Naltrexone as a reversal agent. In summary, sheep incurred distress from < 1 minute to 4 minutes; consequently, all individuals should be listed under Column E.

***Canis lupus* (wolf).** Research-grade, padded leg-hold traps were not monitored continuously. Traps were checked once or twice within a 24 hour period. Because the individual captured was not in the trap only momentarily, it did incur distress for a period of several hours before immobilization. Therefore, the individual should be listed under Column E.

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Dr. Randy Ridenour

Canis latrans (coyote). Research-grade, padded leg-hold traps were not monitored continuously. Traps were checked once or twice within a 24 hour period. Because the individual captured was not in the trap only momentarily, it incurred distress for a period of several hours before immobilization. Therefore, the individual should be listed under Column E.

I appreciate your efforts to describe the discrepancies in the report 30 November 2004. I apologize for the inconvenience the discrepancies between APHIS form 7023 and explanations provided for Column E in my original report caused your office. I was unaware that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) does not consider thoracic compression to be an acceptable means of euthanasia in small mammals. Thank you for providing the website for the AVMA as a source of information for forthcoming Animal Care and Use Committee in Region 7 (Alaska). I look forward to working with your office as we develop an ACUC by 2006.

Again, thank you for your letter requesting clarification and for your support.

Sincerely,

cc. V. Wensley Koch, DVM, USDA-APHIS, Animal Care Western Region

APR - 8 2005

